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THE RECORD OF ENTOMOLOGY for the year 1870 will be soon issued, and it is hoped that subscribers to the previous parts will feel inclined to support this undertaking another year.

SYNOPSIS OF EUROPEAN COLEOPTERA DESCRIBED IN 1868.*—This is a most convenient work for European coleopterists, and is of considerable value to American entomologists. Each species, described as new, is briefly characterized in Latin, so that entomologists of every nationality can read it. When will the time come for the publication of a similar yearly synopsis in America for all the insects?

NATURAL HISTORY MISCELLANY.

BOTANY.

THE JARDIN DES PLANTES, PARIS: *Feb.* 20.—To-day we drove round to the house of M. Decaisne, whose celebrity as a botanist is too well known for any further comment to be necessary, and under his kind and most interesting guidance I visited a scene which was full of painful interest. The gardens had apparently been a point of especial bombardment, and no fewer than eighty-three shells had fallen within their comparatively limited area. We went out to the glass-houses to judge for ourselves of the effects. On the nights of January 8th and 9th, four shells fell into the glass-houses and shattered the greater part of them into atoms. A heap of glass fragments, lying hard by, testified to the destruction, but the effect of the shells was actually to pulverize the glass, so that it fell almost like dust over the gardens. The consequence was that nearly the whole of this most rare and valuable collection was exposed to one of the coldest nights of the year, and whole families of plants were killed by the frost. Some of the plants suffered the most singular effects from the concussion; the fibres were stripped bare, and the bark peeled off in many instances. One house into which we went presented a most lamentable appearance of bare poles; scarcely a leaf was left.

* Synopsis Coleopterorum Europæ et Confinium, anno 1868, descriptorum. Auctore, G. R. Crotch, M. A. London: Williams & Norgate, 1870. 8vo. pp. 68.